

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /086 W
-----045676 252112Z /45

R 250830Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 183
INFO USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4537

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT SEDU BG
SUBJECT: BDG STOPS DELEGATION FROM ATTENDING WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

1. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A DELEGATION OF STUDENTS
INTENDING TO ATTEND THE WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL AT HAVANA WERE
DENIED PERMISSION TO LEAVE BANGLADESH ON JULY 24 BY HOME
MINISTRY OFFICIALS AT THE DACCA AIRPORT.

2. THE DELEGATION CONTAINED STUDENT MEMBERS WHO ARE IN THE
LEADERSHIP OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH
THE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (MUZAFFAR AHMAD GROUP) AND THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF BANGLADESH (MONI SINGH GROUP) BOTH OF
WHICH ARE IN THE "PRO- MOSCOW" CATEGORY OF LEAFTIST POLITICAL
PARTIES IN BANGLADESH. WHILE THE CPB IS BANNED AT PRESENT,
MONI SINGH ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNED FOR PRESIDENT ZIA'S OPPONENT
IN THE JUNE 3 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AS DID THE NAP(M).

3. THE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED INCLUDED THE
CHHATRA (STUDENT) UNION OF THE CPB, THE CHHATRA SAMITI
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(NAP(M)), AND THE CHHATRA LEAGUE, AN AFFILIATE OF THE
AWAMI LEAGUE WHICH, LIKE THE PARENT BODY, HAS
FACTIONALIZED INTO WHAT ARE LOOSELY CALLED "PRO-SOVIET"
AND "MODERATE" ELEMENTS.

4. A MEETING OF THE GROUP WAS HELD ON JULY 21 AT DACCA
UNIVERSITY AT WHICH SOLIDARITY WAS PLEDGED WITH THE

FESTIVAL AND ITS GOALS AS PART OF THE -ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT" OF WORLD YOUTH. IT WAS PRESIDED OVER BY ABD ZAFAR SHMASUDDIN, A JOURNALIST WITH THE BANGALA DAILY SANGBAD AND A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE NAP(M).

5. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE ZIA GOVERNMENT HAS BLOCKED PARTICIPATION IN A COMMUNIST SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL MEETING, ALTHOUGH HIS REGIME CLEARLY OPPOSES SUCH ACTIVITY. THE ROLE OF THE STUDENT GROUPS AND THEIR PARENT PARTIES DURING THE ELECTION MAY ALSO BE A FACTOR.
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Message Attributes

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